

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, August 8, 2017
6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting was held by City Council on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Ashley Brady presided. Council members Ralph Atkinson, Ronald Atkinson, Michael Baker, Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt and Tassie Lewis were present. Councilman Joseph Frazier was not in attendance. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Lakesha Shannon and City Attorney James Brogdon.

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer. Mr. Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests and the press (Hometown TV 8).

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on July 11, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special City Council meeting held on July 18, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Tiquon Wilson, with the Sanitation Department, was named the *July Employee of the Month*. Mayor Brady thanked Mr. Wilson for his hard work in helping to keep the City clean.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to appoint/reappoint Richard Moody, Kelly Calhoun, Marilyn Rogers and Jackie Yates for a 3-year term on the

Employee Grievance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Mayor Ashley Brady explained the proposed Resolution for MASC Hometown Economic Grant. He stated that this a \$25,000 grant that can be used to facilitate façade enhancements on Main Street or any other areas throughout the City. The City of Marion would have to provide \$2,500 in matching funds. ***Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the Resolution for MASC Hometown Economic Grant and apply for the grant. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.***

Mayor Brady stated that the City has decided to open up the Recreation Department's concession stand sales to a vendor rather than the City managing it for sporting events, and a request for bids was solicited. Mr. Ammons explained that the bids were properly advertised with specific criteria. Two bids were received, with one being rejected as it was incomplete and did not meet the bid requirements. Mr. Ammons recommended the bid from L&S Concessions for \$3,100.99. He stated that half of that amount would be paid to the City at the beginning of the fall sports season, and the remaining balance paid in January 2018. The contract will run through June 30, 2018. ***Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the bid from L&S Concessions for \$3,100.99 to provide concession stand operations for the Recreation Department. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt.*** Councilman Ronald Atkinson requested to know if anyone is familiar with this company's service. Mr. Ammons explained that they have operated at the Recreation Department during the season and for tournaments, as well as Marion High School football games and the Foxtrot Festival. ***Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried.***

Mayor Brady stated that bids were received to replace a police car that was totaled in a recent accident. The bids included a 2016 Dodge at \$22,790, and a 2017 Dodge at \$24,415. Mr. Ammons recommended that Council accept the bid for the 2016 Dodge. He noted that the warranty would become effective once the vehicle is delivered. He stated that \$19,324 was received from the insurance company for the totaled vehicle. Mr. Ammons also recommended that Council authorize the City Treasurer to make a transfer of \$3,466 from the Vehicle Maintenance Fund to cover the difference needed to purchase the vehicle. ***Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept the bid of \$22,790 for the 2016 Dodge police car. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt; motion carried.***

Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to approve the transfer of \$3,466 from the Vehicle Maintenance Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson; motion carried.

Mr. Ammons stated that the Planning Commission met prior to the Council meeting to discuss a request to annex a property located on North Main Street into the City of Marion. The Planning Commission recommends that the property be annexed into the City and zoned general commercial. ***Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to approve first reading of Ordinance 17-05 An Ordinance Authorizing the Annexation of Certain Property into the City of Marion. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt; motion carried.***

Mayor Brady explained the proposal to combine the Street and Sanitation Departments together and rename it the Public Works Department. This department will include one Public Works Director, and the staff from each existing department. Mayor Brady stated that the current Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders has announced his retirement effective August 30, 2017. He noted that Mr. Sanders has been employed with

the City of Marion for almost 34 years. ***Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve first reading of Ordinance 17-06 An Ordinance to Create a Public Works Department as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.***

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Ammons provided an update on the CTC transportation funds and stated that the City of Marion has been approved for \$35,000 to complete emergency repairs on Martin Luther King Blvd. He stated that the funds will be used to repair an underground storm drain and install concrete pipes. This project will be advertised for bids. Mr. Ammons stated that around October/November, the City will present a request for funding to pave sidewalks and driveways. He will report back to Council when those funds are available.

Mr. Ammons stated that all employees who operate a city vehicle will be required to complete a defensive driving course offered through the Municipal Association. This training will begin in September. He stated that they also have the Train-the-Trainer Program in which city staff can be trained to facilitate the course in the future.

Mr. Ammons stated that a new hurricane relief office will be located at the old Piggly Wiggly building on North Main Street. This office can assist with building and construction needs. He stated that there will also be a meeting held at the C.D. Joyner Auditorium on August 11, 2017 for contractors who wish to be added to the vendor list for construction work. Mr. Ammons reported that \$52 million was received to repair 600-700 homes in Marion County.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

City Attorney James Brogdon had no legal update at this time.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Brady stated that Departmental Reports were included in the Council packets.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FOR COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilmember's Michael Baker, Ronald Atkinson and Tassie Lewis stated that Mr. Ammons addressed their concerns during the month. Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no update.

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt thanked the citizens/guests for being in attendance at the meeting. He stated that Council works very hard to move the City forward in a positive way, and asked that they be patient with those efforts.

Mayor Ashley Brady commented that everyone is working together well for the betterment of the City of Marion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a matter subject to Attorney Client Privilege. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Returning from executive session, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to return to regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson; motion carried. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that no action was taken in executive session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Walter L. James, Sr. was present to invite City Council and the general public to the 150th Anniversary celebration for Bethel United Methodist Church. He thanked Council for the great job they do for the City of Marion.

Dr. Tamiqia Simon spoke on behalf of Farrah Graves and family. She stated that she was present to discuss events involving social injustice that has taken place in Marion. She referenced a series of incidents involving the Graves family and the City of Marion Police Department. Dr. Simon stated that a request was made under the Freedom of Information Act on July 19, 2017, and no information has been received as of this date. She commented that as a result of these events, they are afraid for families that are socially profiled in this community. Dr. Simon stated that they trust that further investigation will be made into these matters so that profiling will stop.

Mayor Ashley Brady thanked Dr. Simon for her comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson; motion carried.

Mayor Ashley Brady

City Clerk Lakesha Y. Shannon

Taped: August 8, 2017